The Ministry does not set up cold storages on its own. The assistance is @ 25% of cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in General aeras and 33.33% in Difficult areas subject to a common ceiling of Rs. 75 lakhs.

(c) With a view to encourage, among others, processing and preservation of vegetable products and resultant positive impact of income generation of small farmers, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its plan schemes provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid for Technology upgradation/establishment/modernization of food processing industries. Assistance is @ 25% of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in General areas and 33.33% upto Rs. 75 lakhs in Difficult areas.

(d) The schemes of the Ministry are project specific and not state specific. Projects are considered for financial assistance based on viable and complete project proposals received duly recommended by the concerned State Nodal Agency. No project proposal for setting up of cold storage in Bihar has been received during the current financial year.

Use of colours in food items

1121. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Nutrition has found liberal use of a variety of colours in food items which are harmful for health;

(b) if so, the details of the findings; and

(c) the action taken to correct the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of House.

Drug Control Authority

1122. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up an Autonomous Drug Control Authority of India and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons, therefore and the specific functions proposed to be assigned thereto;

(c) whether the proposed Authority will have the power to eliminate the menace of fake drugs which is rampant in the country and also to make available the life-saving drugs at affordable prices; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The formation of an Autonomous Drug Control Authority along with its proposed function etc. is under active consideration of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Creation of such an Authority would provide required focus on the manufacture and sale of drugs in the country which would also ensure effective implementation of strategies to check the menace of fake/spurious drugs. This subject is being looked after by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.

Guidelines for appointments of Medical staff

1123. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any guidelines in place with regard to the appointments of medical staff in medical colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether government have received any recommendations from the Medical Council of India in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The minimum requirement of staff (Teaching and Technical both) in the medical colleges having annual intake of 50,100, 150 MBBS Admissions are regulated by the Medical Council of India's "Minimum requirements for 50 MBBS Admissions annualy Regulations, 1999", "Minimum requirements for 100 MBBS Admissions annualy Regulations, 1999" and "Minimum requirements for 150 MBBS Admissions annually Regulations, 1999" respectively. The Ministry has received proposals from Medical Council of India for amending these regulations. The matter is under consideration.